

Forensic Science | Unit 2 Case Study – OJ Simpson Case

Using the information provided for the case and information gathered from the internet, fill in the required information in the space provided below.

Introduction to the case: There have been many highly publicized crimes throughout history. While many have been solved, many others have not. In this assignment, you will investigate the most publicized case in modern American history, the trial of O.J. Simpson.

Background: Sports are as much a part of American culture as hot dogs, apple pie and fireworks. In the 1970s and 1980s, O.J. Simpson became one of the most famous cultural figures in American history due in large part to his Hall of Fame football career and hugely successful endorsement, movie, and commentating ventures. However, in the summer of 1994, Simpson would become famous for his trial, and eventual acquittal, of the murder of his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman.

The case, which was broadcast on live television, brought to light many errors in proper crime scene investigative protocol. O.J. Simpson's defense attorney, Johnnie Cochran, referred to the LAPD scientific investigations division as a "cesspool of contamination" for sloppy evidence handling. For a brief overview of the case, watch this [Fox News Video](#).

*Helpful websites to get you started:

- [The Forensics Library – OJ Simpson](http://aboutforensics.co.uk/oj-simpson/) (http://aboutforensics.co.uk/oj-simpson/)
- [Aizman Law Firm – Lessons Learned from Evidence gathering mistakes in Simpson Case](http://www.lacriminaldefensepartners.com/lessons-learned-evidence-gathering-mistakes-simpson-case/) (http://www.lacriminaldefensepartners.com/lessons-learned-evidence-gathering-mistakes-simpson-case/)
- [Crime Museum – Forensics at the OJ Simpson Trial](http://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/forensic-investigation-of-the-oj-simpson-trial/) (http://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/forensic-investigation-of-the-oj-simpson-trial/)
- [CNET – Watch the high-tech computer simulation of the OJ Simpson murder case](https://www.cnet.com/news/cnet-vault-oj-simpson-murder-computer-simulation) (https://www.cnet.com/news/cnet-vault-oj-simpson-murder-computer-simulation)
- [The New York Times – The Simpson Case: A Disputed Search](http://www.nytimes.com/1994/07/01/us/simpson-case-disputed-search-simpson-lawyers-look-exclude-bloody-evidence-found.html?pagewanted=all) (http://www.nytimes.com/1994/07/01/us/simpson-case-disputed-search-simpson-lawyers-look-exclude-bloody-evidence-found.html?pagewanted=all)

1. Case Name: (1 point)
The People of the State of California v. Orenthal James Simpson
2. Date crime occurred: (1 point)
June 12, 1994
3. Victim(s): (1 point)
Nicole Brown Simpson, Ronald Goldman

4. Persons of interest named in the investigation and relationship to victim(s): (1 point)
OJ Simpson, ex-husband of Nicole Brown
5. Summary of crime sequence: (Detailed summary of what actually happened.) (2 points)
On June 12, 1994, OJ Simpson killed Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman at 879 S Bundy Drive, Los Angeles, California. The blood of the victims was found at OJ's house and OJ's blood was found at the crime scene. A glove with the blood of the victims was also found at the crime scene. The other glove was found at OJ's house. A hat with OJ's hair was also found at the crime scene
6. In section 2.1 you learned about how crime scene investigators secure a crime scene. How was the crime scene secured in this case? What errors occurred? (4 points)
The first police officer that arrived didn't secure the crime scene
7. In lesson you 2.2 you learned about the major types of evidence. What type of evidence was collected at the scene? (4 point) The blood was unknown evidence, so was the hat with hair. The gloves were class evidence, but the chances of OJ having the matching glove are pretty low. The blood was also individual evidence because it can be traced to one person through DNA testing.
8. In lesson 2.2 you learned about the chain of custody. Did the investigative team follow this protocol in handling the evidence? If so, describe how. If not, explain the errors that occurred. (4 points) No. some evidence was not packaged properly, and some was left in a van and overheated.
9. In lesson 2.3 you learned about crime scene reconstruction. In what ways was evidence was used to reconstruct the crime and how detailed were the re-constructionists able to recreate the events of the crime? (4 points)
OJ had to put the gloves on in court. The gloves had been frozen and unfrozen multiple times for preservation of the blood samples on them. this is why they didn't fit
10. Outcome of the case and current status: (This includes court proceedings and decisions, verdicts, sentences, etc.) (4 points)
OJ Simpson found not guilty
11. Case significance: (Examples include: How has this case affected the field of forensic science? Has the case advanced the field? Did this case introduce a new form of technology? Did this case have any significance on the general public?) (4 points) It shows how important it is to handle evidence correctly. Most of the reason OJ wasn't convicted was because some of the evidence was considered contaminated due to improper handling. If they handled it properly, he would have been convicted because there would have been nothing to prove him innocent.